BOROUGH OF ABERYSTWYTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1948.

DANIEL IDRIS EVANS, Ph.D.(Lond.), B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

ABERYSTWYTH BOROUGH COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health (Part Time).....	DANIEL IDRIS EVANS, Ph.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Sanitary Inspector, Housing Inspector and Certified Inspector of Foods	OSBORNE J. EVANS, M.R.San.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.
Assistant	DAVID M. LEWIS.

To the Mayor and Corporation of the Borough of Aberystwyth.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough for the year 1948.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	1,141 acres
Population	10,330
No. of Habitable Houses	2,471
Rateable Value	£65,138
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£254 (1948-49)

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1948.

		Total	M.	F.
LIVE BIRTHS:-	Legitimate	117	64	53
	Illegitimate	4	1	3
STILL BIRTHS:-	Legitimate	3	2	1
	Illegitimate	1	1	0
TOTAL BIRTHS		125	68	57

Live Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population	11.70
Still Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population ...	0.38
Still Birth Rate per 1000 of the total live and still births ...	32.00

3. DEATHS (All Causes)

Death Rate per 1000 population 10.93

4. MATERNAL MORTALITY ..... NIL

5. INFANTILE MORTALITY (Infants under 1 year old)

	Total	M	F
Legitimate	5	3	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
TOTAL .	5	3	2

6. CAUSES OF DEATH.

Number of Deaths Caused by :-

	Total	M	F
Tuberculosis	6	5	1
Cancer (all ages)	11	8	3
Measles (all ages)	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years old) ...	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	0	0	0
Heart Disease	19	10	9
Other Causes	77	29	48
All Causes	113	52	61

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

WATER.

It was reported by the Borough Surveyor, Mr J.B.McGaw, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.M.E., M.R.S.I., that during 1948 :-

"I think it can be assumed that the water supply of the Borough was just satisfactory in regard to quality, but I consider safeguards are required by (a) filtration and (b) covering in of the service reservoirs".

"The annual quantity available is sufficient for present needs. However, the capacity of the main from the mountain gathering ground, together with the bulk supply obtained from the Rural District Council of Aberystwyth, gives a surplus in winter, but a deficiency in the holiday months. To ensure an adequate supply during the latter period greater capacity of service reservoirs is necessary. One mountain main is nearly 70 years old, is subject to great internal pressure and for 10 of its 16 miles length is in very difficult country, often inaccessible in Winter. Bursts and blown joints occur periodically, and under these circumstances a service reservoir capacity of approximately eight days supply is inadequate".

About four weekly samples of water collected from running taps in the town have been tested bacteriologically, and the reports have been satisfactory except for the summer months.

Professor C.W.Davies, D.Sc., F,R.I.C., reported as follows "The p.H. of the main water supply at these Laboratories has been determined frequently over the past two years, during which time the water has remained almost exactly neutral. Glass electrode readings have varied between p.H. 6.9 and 7.6 - the reading today is 7.5; these small fluctuations around the neutral point are of course natural and without significance.

So long as the p.H. remains as high as this, I beleive that there is nothing to be feared from plumbo solvency. The last time we carried out a direct determination of lead in the water, was on the 15th December last (1948) when the p.H. was 7.1, and the lead content was 0.02 - 0.03 parts per 100,000."

There was a serious shortage of water in the town during the end of March, 1948, when the service reservoirs were almost completely devoid of their water store. Large sections of the town were without water at all, and a system of supply had to be arranged by means of water carts filled from a stand pipe outside the Church at Llanbadarn. This water supply was chlorinated under supervision at the filling point. Eventually the source of the trouble was traced to a fracture in the pipe supply in the town, and repair of this pipe ended the trouble with completely satisfactory results.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The health of the inhabitants remained remarkably good over the year, and there were no epidemics of note.

Pathological work concerned with the control of diseases was carried out again by the Public Health Laboratory, and the value of this work is ever appreciated.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1948.

Disease	Total No. of Cases Notified	Total Deaths
Small Pox	0	0
Scarlet Fever	21	0
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	2	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0
Whooping Cough	7	0
Measles	3	0
Erysipelas	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0
Diphtheria	1	0
Dysentry	0	0
Malaria	1	0
Meningitis	0	0
Food Poisoning	1	0

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THIS AREA.

On July 5th, 1948, the National Health Service was inaugerated and there came into being in Great Britain a most comprehensive system of social insurance, and free medical service was provided for all.

HOSPITAL SERVICE.

All hospitals in the Borough, except the old Small Pox Hospital at Alltglais, were taken over and became the property of the State. They passed into the control of the Welsh Regional Hospitals Board, and Aberystwyth found itself in what is termed the Mid-Wales Area, Group No.11, with the General Hospital at Aberystwyth as the Area Hospital and a Specialist Centre. The day to day management of the hospitals in the Area is supervised by a Hospital Management Committee appointed by the Minister of Health.

The following hospitals were taken over :-

(1) Aberystwyth Infirmary and Cardiganshire General Hospital with 81 beds for general medical and surgical cases. At the same time it was renamed The General Hospital, Aberystwyth.
(2) Poor Law Institution, Bronglais, with 82 beds, and now named Bronglais Hospital. At this Hospital the Management Committee is a "Joint User" with the Cardiganshire County Council. 42 beds are provided for sick persons, and 40 beds for the use of the County Council, who are under a Statutory duty to provide
    (a) Residential accommodation for a wide range of elderly, infirm, disabled or subnormal people who are unable to look after themselves in their own home and cannot obtain from relatives, friends or others the care and the attention they require.
    (b) Temporary accommodation for persons who are in urgent need of it in circumstances which could not reasonably have been foreseen, or in such circumstances as the authority may in any particular case determine.

As there were more sick immates than non sick at this Hospital on the appointed day it passed into the control of the Hospital Management Committee.
(3) Tanybwlch Fever Hospital with 34 beds. Although this hospital is not within the Borough it is very closely associated with it since it receives all our fever cases.
(4) County Maternity Hospital, Caradoc Road with 20 beds.

Specialist staffing of the Area is the responsibility of the Welsh Regional Hospitals Board, and the following specialities are provided for at the General Hospital, Aberystwyth :-

Medicine.
Surgery.
Ear, Nose and Throat.
Neurology.
Orthopaedic and Traumatic Surgery.
Tuberculosis and Thoracic work.
Psychiatry.
Radiology.

During the year a system of out-patient clinics was started, each clinic being in charge of a specialist in the employ of the Welsh Regional Hospitals Board. The following clinics are available free of charge for all at the times shown below, at the General Hospital, Aberystwyth.

MONDAY :	a.m.	Ophthalmic
	p.m.	Tuberculosis
		Surgical
TUESDAY :	a.m.	Surgical
	p.m.	Medical.
WEDNESDAY :	a.m.	Ophthalmic
		Ear, Nose and Throat
	p.m.	Ear, Nose and Throat
THURSDAY :	a.m.	Ophthalmic
		Ear, Nose and Throat on alternate weeks
	p.m.	Surgical
FRIDAY :	a.m.	Medical
	p.m.	Surgical

Orthopaedic and Psychiatric Clinics are also held at monthly intervals. All clinics are very popular and are made full use of. It must be understood that Aberystwyth form part of the Welsh Regional Hospitals Board Area and so patients can obtain the benefit of attendance at any of the Specialist Clinics held in the area as well as any other clinic in the country if that is necessary. In the same way admission can be arranged to any other hospital.

One of the duties laid on the Minister under Section 3 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, is to provide the services of a specialist if necessary on medical grounds, at the home of the patient. Aberystwyth General Hospital at which the area specialists are based, acts as a Bureaux for dealing with requests from family doctors for domiciliary visits by specialists, and calls for specialists, either emergency or other visits are made through the hospital. This service has been fully employed during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

There is a well equiped laboratory available at the General Hospital, Aberystwyth, centrally administered, and which has served the Borough excellently in the past.

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES SCHEMES.

The Cardiganshire County Council is the Local Health Authority under Part III of the National Health Services Act, 1946, and they were required to submit proposals for the discharge of their functions to the Minister, and to send a copy to the Borough Council as one of the interested bodies. They did this early in the year and these proposals were considered by the Borough Council.

The Fourth Schedule of the Act requires each County Council to appoint a health committee which may have co-opted members. This Committee which has been duly formed is called the Local Health Committee, and has the duty to provide the following services :-

(a) Health Centres
(b) Care of mothers and young children
(c) Domiciliary Midwifery
(d) Health Visiting
(e) Home Nursing
(f) Vaccination and Immunisation
(g) Ambulance Service
(h) Care and after-care and prevention of illness

It has also the power but not the duty to supply domestic help.

GENERAL MEDICAL AND ALLIED SERVICES.

General medical services given by Family Practitioners, Dentists, Pharmacists and Opticians, is controlled by a new Statutory body, the Executive Council, who are also responsible for the supply of Medicines and Appliances. There were seven general practitioners, all the dentists, pharmacists, opticians and ophthalmic surgeons resident in the Borough, under contract with the Cardiganshire Executive Council during the year, and on the whole the change over has proceeded smoothly.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Constant supervision is maintained and periodical inspection of the Borough carried out and any nuisances are attended to immediately,

RODENT CONTROL

During the year extensive rodent control work was carried out on Private premises and especially on Corporation premises such as the Refuse Disposal Grounds, Corporation Yard, etc. Special attention was given to the treatment of sewers, and the results were most satisfactory. Mr Wyndham Jones, the Rodent Operator, has taken a very keen interest in his work, and on several occassions has been complimented by the Officials of the Ministry upon the success attained.

Realising the danger to foods, this is an important section of Public Health work and should be maintained.

HOUSING.

During the year, a large number of houses were inspected and repairs carried out. In many cases this work has been carried out following interviews with owners and without the necessity of the serving of notices.

It is the intention of the Department to commence at an early date, the systematic inspection of houses in accordance with the Housing Regulations.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Keen supervision is being maintained by the Sanitary Inspector of all foods, and periodical inspection is carried out of all food stores and it is pleasing to report that a very successful campaign has been carried out to improve the hygenic conditions of Food Premises. Hot and Cold Running Water has been provided in nearly every Food Store for the cleansing of the hands, etc., of the employees, also the provision in many cases of separate and sufficient sanitary accommodation.

ICE CREAM.

Particular attention was paid to the inspection of premises at which ice cream was manufactured, stored and sold.

During the season 82 samples were taken and the results are as follows:-

Grade I - 48. Grade II - 13. Grade III - 19. Grade IV - 2.

This is quite satisfactory, but should, and can be improved upon.

LICENCED PREMISES.

A comprehensive campaign has been carried out for the improvement of the hygenic conditions at Licenced Premises. New and separate sanitary conveniences have been installed in many premises, others improved upon, and in several instances new wash sinks provided with hot and cold running water for the cleansing of glasses, etc. There are still a few premises which require attention. These cases will be followed up in due course.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that the animals slaughtered and inspected at the Abattoir during the year were as follows:-

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number of Animals Killed.	481	885	6,792	37
All Diseases except T.B.				
Whole Carcases Condemned.	21	17	18	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	333	4	231	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	73.6%	4.3%	3.9%	19%
Tuberculosis only.				
Whole carcases condemned.	1	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	4	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	1.04%	-	-	-

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Meat, other than the above-mentioned (including tinned meats) which were condemned included 168 lbs Beef; 25 lbs Ham; 1 Crate of Ducks; 12 x 6lb Corned Beef; 9 x 12lb Corned Beef; 2 x 2lb Veal Loaf; 2 x 2lb Luncheon Meat; 1 x 1lb Meat Lunch; 10 x 2¼lb Danish Pork; 2 x 2lb Meat Loaf; 3 x 6lb Roast Beef; 5 x 1lb Stewing Steak; 5 x 1lb Pork Sausage; 2 x 1lb Sausage Meat; 2 x 1½lb Rabbit.

Total Weight: 326¼ lbs.

Other foodstuffs which were condemned included the following :-

Fish. 952 lbs Hake; 76½ lbs Haddock; 28lbs Cod Fillets; 70 lbs Plaice; 196 lbs Kippers; 188 lbs Prawns.
Total Weight; 1,510 lbs.

9 x 1 lb tins Salmon; 6 x ½lb tins Salmon; 4 x ½lb tins Pilchards, 34 x ½lb tins Sardines; 20 x 1 lb tins Mussels; 2 x 1 lb tins Crawfish; 4 x ¼lb tins Crab Paste; 2 x ½lb tins Fish Cake.

Fruit and Vegetables. 9 x 1 lb tins Beetroot; 11 x 1 lb tins Carrots; 23 x 1 lb tins Beans; 29 x 1 lb tins Peas; 209 lbs Dried Peas; 3 x 2½lb tins Potatoes; 51 x 1 jars Pickles; 18 x 1½ jars Pickles; 1 x 1 lb tin Spaghetti; 71 x 1 lb tins Soup; 185lbs Prunes; 99 lbs Sultanas; 25 lbs Dried Peaches; 48lbs Cherries; 1 x 11 lb tin Tomato Puree; 5 x 1½lb tins Tomatoes; 11 x 1 lb tins Tomato Juice; 10 x 1½ tins Apricots; 2 x 6lb tins Apricots; 20 x 1½lb tins Pears; 31 x 1½ tins Grapefruit; 3 x 1½lb tins Peaches; 20 x 2½lb tins Peaches; 3 x 2½lb tins Plums; 3 x 3lb tins Apples; 17 x 2½lb tins Pineapple; 2 x 1 lb tins Rhubarb; 3 x 1½lb tins Grapes; 3 x 1 lb tins Cherries.
Total Weight: 1,036 lbs.

Miscellaneous. 106 x ½lb tins Evaporated Milk; 8 x 1 lb tins Condensed Milk; 1 x 1 lb Packet All-Bran; 6 x 1 lb Packets Wheat Flakes; 45lbs Flour; 2lbs Semolina; 40lbs Macaroni; 80 lbs Oatmeal; 31 x 1 lb Packets Robinson's Barley; 4 x 2 lb tins Melon and Lemon Jam; 2 x 2 lb jars Strawberry Jam; 2 x 3 lb tins Gooseberry Jam; 1 x 2¾ lb tin Grapefruit Marmalade; 14 lbs Cheese; 10 lbs Peppermint Lumps; 6 lbs All-Nut Toffee; 1 gross Edible Cake Decorations; 27 tins Malted Soya Cream; 7,000 Ice Cream Biscuit Cones.
Total Weight: 316¼ lbs.

Grand Total of foodstuffs condemned, apart from that condemned at the Aberystwyth abattoir, is approximately ... ... 3,241½ lbs.

INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Number of Houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	425.
Number of Factories inspected	71.
Number of Bakeries inspected	23.
Number of Cowsheds inspected	18.
Number of Dairies and Milk Stores	27.
Number of Slaughterhouse inspections	265.
Number of Ice Cream Premises inspected	43.
Number of Piggeries inspected	5.
Number of Shops, Food Stores, etc.	247.
TOTAL NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS ...	1,053.

NOTICES SERVED.

Preliminary Notices.

Under the Public Health and Housing Acts ...	173.
Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938	49.
Under the Factories Act, 1937	6.
Rodent Control and other Matters	9.
TOTAL	237

Statutory Notices.

Public Health and Housing Acts	18.
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	1.
TOTAL	19.

TUBERCULOSIS

GENERAL. Ten new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during this year.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Section 172.

No action

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1948.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	5	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 upwards	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	8	1	1	0	1	1	0	0